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Second Man Linked to Nazis Quits U.S.

By RALPH BLUMENTHAL

The Justice Department announced yesterday that a second naturalized American citizen had surrendered his citizenship and left the United States for West Germany rather than contest charges involving Nazi war crimes during World War II.

The department said the case involved a man identified as John Avdzej, a 79-year-old retired draftsman from Roselle Park, N.J. He was said to have admitted "misrepresentations and concealments" regarding his service as regional mayor of Stolpce in Nazi-occupied Byelorussia.

During that time, the Government said, nearly all the Jews and many Polish civilians there were slain.

The announcement by Neal M. Sher, director of the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, came two days after the disclosure that Arthur Rudolph, who headed the Saturn V moon-rocket project for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, left the country in March and gave up his citizenship rather than face charges that he worked slave laborers to death at a German rocket factory at the Dora concentration camp.

Both Back in West Germany

Mr. Rudolph, accompanied by his wife, Martha, also went to West Germany. A daughter, Marianne, remained behind in the United States but recently visited her parents there. Mr. Sher said his office stood ready to provide the West Germans with documentation on the Rudolph case even though the statute of limitations has expired for most war crimes.

Under the agreement Mr. Avdzej signed with the Justice Department Jan. 5, he left the country in February and surrendered his citizenship at the consulate in Stuttgart on March 2, 1984, officials said.

The announcement said he had been apprised of allegations that while serving as the Nazi-installed regional Mayor of Stolpce, he "participated in the persecution of unarmed Jewish and Polish civilians" and in the "registration of Jewish inhabitants and their internment under inhumane conditions in ghettos."

Mr. Sher said that Mr. Avdzej, when applying to come to the United States under the Displaced Persons Act, "concealed" his past by saying he spent the war years as a farmer and tradesman in Poland.

Mr. Sher said it was clear from records that Mr. Avdzej had received no official help in entering the United States. He became a citizen in 1959.

John Loftus, a former investigator for the Special Investigations Office and author of a book on Byelorussia under the Nazis, said yesterday that he had uncovered documents showing that Mr. Avdzej had attended a Byelorussian

"convention of Nazis" in South River, N.J., in 1954. Consequently, said Mr. Loftus, now a lawyer in Boston, information was available to American intelligence agencies that should have barred Mr. Avdzej's naturalization.

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